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CONNECTICUT CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Volume 8 No. 1

January 1969

SQUIRREL RUN - A Gift of Land in Stamford

An 8-acre tract - our first acquisition of a "cedar lot" type habitat - has been received by The Nature Conservancy. The donor, Laurence W. Lowman, of this interesting tract in northern Stamford, has named the new preserve "Squirrel Run".



Laurence W. Lowman
examining a handsome
cedar in Squirrel Run.

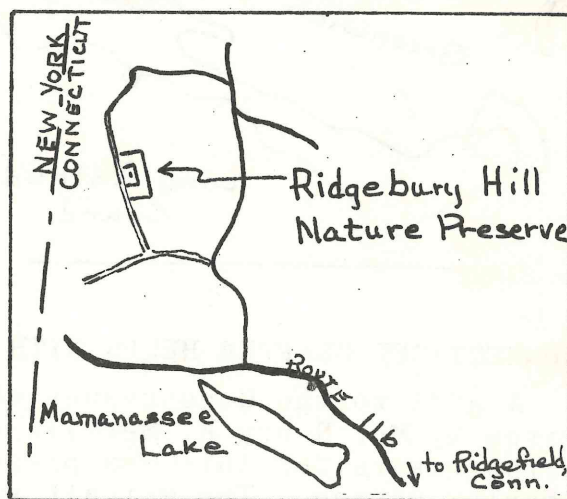
This cedar lot habitat is especially valuable as a prime example of change occurring in our Connecticut landscape as woods reclaim abandoned agricultural fields. First the tiny red cedars appear, scattered among the dry, skimpy grass and goldenrod of a neglected pasture. As the cedars grow taller with the years, they usually keep slender forms and are joined

(cont. on page 4)

RIDGEBURY HILL NATURE PRESERVE - A new Natural Area is Begun

A 4.6-acre gift in Ridgefield from Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Trachtman is the beginning of a new and growing Nature Preserve.

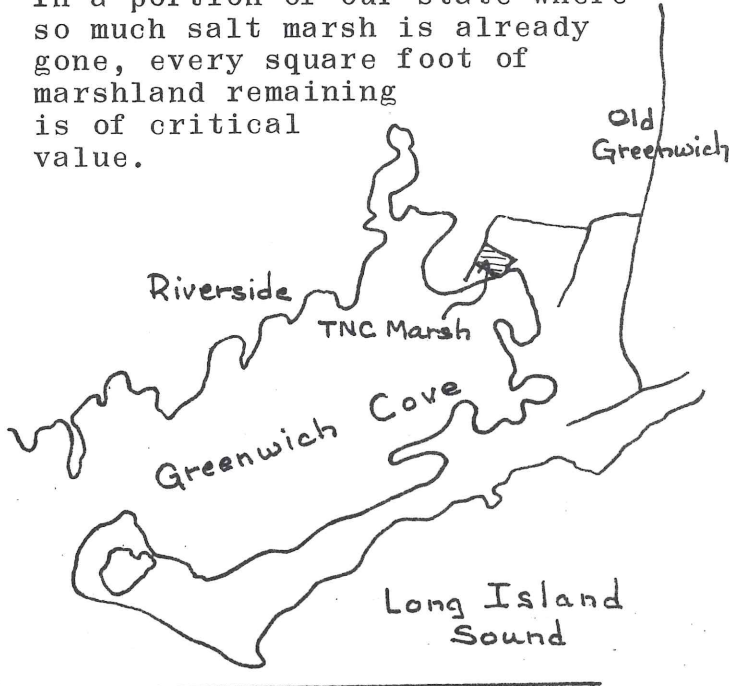
It is a lovely hillside forest of hardwoods looking westward to the New York state line. This tract is a fine example of how one can invest ownership in The Nature Conservancy with a plan that will grow in size and value. By so doing one receives individually the advantages and satisfaction of a dedicated charitable gift and perhaps an even greater value of assurance of all-time preservation of a valuable piece of our natural heritage.



GREENWICH COVE MARSHES

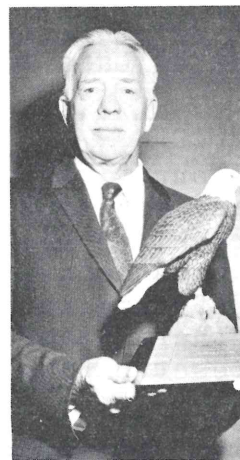
A small preserve of great ecological value is hopefully the starter of a most important project. As with so many of our coves and inlets along the Connecticut coastline, salt water marshes occur in bits and pieces surrounding a tidal estuary or cove. One small piece by itself may not seem like much, but many small pieces around such a body of salt water can be of tremendous ecological value and, indeed, vital to the continued existence of marine life in that area.

Such is the ecological importance of a recent gift of a 1/4 acre of marsh on the Greenwich Cove. This gift from Mr. & Mrs. Walter Kisluk, of Old Greenwich, we hope will be a leading example culminating in the preservation of most of the lovely bits of salt marsh edging the Greenwich Cove. In a portion of our state where so much salt marsh is already gone, every square foot of marshland remaining is of critical value.



NATURE CONSERVANCY HONORED

Our Chairman of the Connecticut Chapter, Charles A. Clark, was designated as "State Conservationist of the Year" at an Awards Dinner in Hartford on December 7, 1968. The Connecticut Conservation Recognition Dinner is an annual affair sponsored by the Connecticut Wildlife Federation and The National Wildlife Federation and funded by the Sears Roebuck Foundation.



Charles A. Clark
receiving the Bald
Eagle statuette as
"State Conserva-
tionist of the Year"

Charlie says his award was made possible by the activities and successes of the Connecticut Chapter members of The Nature Conservancy and the strong backing of the National Office. However, our Chapter members can see, as evidenced by the activities reported in this issue of The Oak Leaf alone, that our Chapter Chairman devotes much time and effort to the Conservancy work of preserving various unique and valuable habitats for future generations.

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER HELPS WITH NATURAL AREA IN NEW YORK

A gift to the Conservancy of a 3-acre tract in Westchester County was given by Mr. Henry K. Metcalf of Greenwich, Connecticut in December. Arrangements for this new preserve were handled through the Connecticut Chapter Office. The Metcalf parcel is especially welcome since it rounds out a Conservancy preserve of some 50 acres. It is a lovely tract including part of a lake and an island therein.

PROTECTION THROUGH LEGISLATION - Will Valuable Natural Areas Receive Help from the Connecticut General Assembly??

Coastal Wetlands

The 1969 Connecticut General Assembly will have before it for consideration many proposals to save wetlands - especially our coastal salt water marshes.

We are pleased to report that indications are that the State Administration will support: a) proposals to appropriate \$1.35 million for the purchase of salt water marshes; b) a legislative declaration that salt water marshes are an extremely valuable natural resource which should be preserved; and c) a requirement that no salt water marsh can be dredged or filled without obtaining a prior permit from the State Water Resources Commission - which permit will be issued only when it is determined that the public good would be benefited by such dredging or filling.

Conservation groups will be urging the General Assembly to enact a program to provide for conservation zoning which in effect would allow the State of Connecticut to place easements at one time upon all salt water marsh in designated estuaries. These easements would be permanent and thereafter no dredging or filling of salt water marshes could be done even by permit.

Soon we shall be mailing out to the entire membership a Connecticut Conservation Association Newsletter featuring a Special Report more fully explaining the status of Connecticut marshes today.

Please remember that one of the most effective methods to obtain legislation one wishes is to pick up your telephone and talk with or otherwise contact your local Connecticut representative or senator.

Nature Preserves

A bill to create a State System of Nature Preserves will be considered again by the Connecticut General Assembly. In 1967 such a bill was passed by the Senate unanimously but was referred back to Committee by the House of Representatives because of failure to appropriate sufficient money to provide for personnel to manage the System.

Areas of critical value because of some unique, rare or vanishing flora, fauna, geological or archeological features would be the areas to be considered for the greater protections which such a System of Nature Preserves could provide. The bill before the Legislature provides that it be declared to be the public policy of Connecticut that land dedicated as a Nature Preserve and thus available to present and future generations would be land being put to its highest, best and most important use for public benefit.

The Conservation Law Subcommittee of the Connecticut Bar Association has spent many hours working over improvements in the wording of this bill. Representatives of the Connecticut Park and Forest Commission have also made suggestions for changes. Conservancy members working on this Subcommittee include: Russell L. Brenneman, Richard M. Bowers and Harry Edelberg.

It appears now that the only problem in the way of enactment of this extremely important conservation legislation, from an ecological and scientific viewpoint, is the appropriation of some \$50,000 to provide additional staff in the Park and Forest Commission for the System.

GET A PIECE OF THE ACTION!

A reprint of the article on the Cottrell Marsh from the November 1968 issue of The Oak Leaf is inserted in this issue to remind you of this most important project. If you have not already sent in your contribution, it is not too late to do so.

We still need about \$13,000 to pay off the loan that made this acquisition possible. This is your opportunity to have a part in saving a splendid salt marsh from the rapidly dwindling supply.

Contributors as of mid-January are as follows:

Happy Kitchel Egler
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Miss Dorothy Bidwell
Mr. & Mrs. Wm. DeSousa
Mrs. Cornelia S. Chapin
Margery K. Hagden
Helen Ferris Hooker
Cameron Winslow
Richard H. Goodwin
Elizabeth S. Maxwell
Lucy G. Buck
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Charles A. Brown
Lois P. Williams
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Katherine Pomeroy
Mrs. Christy Hanas
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Mrs. Malcolm D. MacGregor
Charles A. Clark
Dr. George W. Hebard
Dr. John P. Riesman
Alan Obre
Pomeroy Robinson, Jr.

Mrs. D. W. A. Pleasanton
Mrs. Robert F. Whitman
Garrett W. Nevius
Mrs. H. Kaufmann
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Helen S. Phinney
Elinor K. Willis
Hazel A. Johnson
Mrs. Elisha Atkins
Florence W. Whitman
Norman H. Morse
L. George Rieger
Elizabeth B. Lugg
Philip Smith
Ruth Gallup Bowers
William A. Niering

SQUIRREL RUN ..(cont. from page 1)

by little gray birches and the wild black cherries. Some cedars in this Preserve are now 25 feet high.

It is most important that examples of these changes be preserved for aesthetic, scientific and educational purposes.

Remarking on this fine acquisition, our Chapter Chairman Charles A. Clark stated, "The

Lowman Gift is a most valuable contribution to the preservation of open space in densely populated southwestern Connecticut. The people of the Stamford area will benefit in years to come from this example of private dedication of a fine natural habitat. It is hoped that other generous citizens will be moved to similar action."

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

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The Editor invites any comments concerning, or articles for, the Chapter Newsletter.